



ABC Update May 2008

1003 Twilight Trail · Frankfort, KY 40601 · 502-564-4850 · www.abc.ky.gov

Spotlight on Virginia Davis

Virginia Davis of the Kentucky Office of Alcoholic Beverage Control will enter her 40th year as an employee. Through the many years and many positions within the agency, she has witnessed how the office evolved and was a large part in that process. Those who know Virginia appreciate her gift for telling stories and so enjoy the following interview as Virginia gives a glimpse into her long and interesting tenure with ABC.



So, when did you start with the ABC and why did you choose to begin your career there?

Davis: I was a teenager in March of 1969 and it was still against the law for a woman to sit on stool at the bar. In my first years with the ABC, I loved the people I worked with and the people I served, but I hated the paper work. There was tons and tons of paperwork. In those days, it was done on a manual typewriter with carbon paper and no copying machines. It was not until my 4th year I realized that if I was going to stay I had to try to make a difference. So I picked up an ABC law book and began to study and I have not put it down since. Learning as many ABC laws, regulations, rules, policies, ordinances, opinions, and “Just because I said so’s” has allowed me to serve the industry and public in ways that make a positive difference.

What is the biggest difference between the ABC you started with and the current agency?

Davis: My quick answer is computers.

ABC then was larger, wilder, less trained, loyal, tuff, and raw. Street sense was mandatory and those were the years the agency’s reputation was less than stellar-it was not always deserved and very slow to over-come I have watched this agency change its reputation into a strong, intelligent, and professional organization that you see today. It’s like watching a teenager struggling to blossom into a fine young adult. You often wonder if it will ever happen. Just

about the time you are ready to give up on them, you slowly notice that they just might become a real human after all. Today I look at the ABC and see a very attractive agency I am proud to be a part of.

I know you have had several titles during your tenure with ABC. What positions have been your favorites? Any good stories you can share?

Davis: My first position was “clerk” step 1, grade 1. That’s how I started at the bottom. \$275 a month and I was grateful. I can’t even remember all the different positions I’ve held without checking my file but one that stands out in my mind was “agent.” I was Kentucky’s first female ABC agent, not the best mind you, but the first. I am also the only female to hold the position of Enforcement Supervisor for the ABC. Those titles were short lived since I found myself freeing more people then apprehending them. So it wasn’t long before I headed back to the office where my talents were better utilized. “Licensing Specialist” was always a favorite position of my. If I can’t help you get a license your in trouble. But the work I’m doing now is very rewarding. Legislation, computer project manager, and consulting issues fill my day currently.

What is your favorite part of the job these days?

Davis: Helping the licensees and the public. That’s what it’s all about for me. That’s why I continue to wake up every morning at 5:00 a.m.

As a 40-year employee, from the changes you have seen, where do you see the agency going?

Davis: In the old days, as I fondly call them now, Kentucky just had good old regular wet or dry counties, but today you have a blend of wet, dry, moist (city wet and county dry), limited restaurant drink wet, drink golf course wet, winery wet, and historic site wet. Each has been created with gazillions of differences. We must start dreaming big to stay up with changes in the industry and the demands of the public. Development in technology to provide more efficient services such as online licensing, training, and education is our future. Let’s not be scared to kick it up a notch, fellas, ’cause this girl ain’t scared!

UPCOMING S.T.A.R. TRAINING DATES

Server Training in Alcohol Regulations - In addition to responsible sales and service training, we cover Kentucky-specific statutes and regulations, individual liabilities and fake IDs. Class time is four and one-half hours. **Classes start promptly at noted time.**

May 2008

06 (9-1:30) Lexington-Ramada Inn Paris Pike
07 (9-1:30) Louisville-Middletown Govt. Ctr
08 (6-10:30) Louisville-Barrett Govt. Ctr.
10 (9-1:30) Lexington-Ramada Inn Paris Pike
10 (9-1:30) Frankfort-ABC Office
12 (9-1:30) Frankfort-ABC Office
12 (9-1:30) Owensboro-Cigar Factory Mall
13 (9-1:30) Bowling Green-Houchen's Center
17 (9-1:30) Louisville-American Founders Bank
Hurstbourne 1200 Forrest Green Dr.
20 (9-1:30) Hazard-KY River ADD Perry Park
22 (5-9:30) Frankfort-ABC Office
27 (9-1:30) Florence-Florence Municipal Bldg.
29 (5-9:30) Lexington-Mayor's Job Training Ctr.

June 2008

02 (9-1:30) Frankfort-ABC Office
03 (9-1:30) Hopkinsville-Library Boardroom
04 (9-1:30) Lexington-Ramada Inn Paris Pike
05 (6-10:30) Louisville-Barrett Govt. Ctr.
09 (5:00-10) Owensboro-Cigar Factory Mall
10 (9-1:30) Prestonsburg-Jenny Wiley Park
14 (9-1:30) Lexington-Ramada Inn Paris Pike
18 (9-1:30) Mt. Sterling-Civic Center
21 (9-1:30) Frankfort-ABC Office
21 (9-1:30) Louisville-American Founders Bank
Hurstbourne 1200 Forrest Green Dr
22 (1-5:30) Murray-MSU Curris Ctr. Burkley Rm.
23 (9-1:30) Louisville-Middletown Govt. Ctr.
24 (5-9:30) Lexington-Mayor's Job Training Ctr.
26 (5-9:30) Frankfort-ABC Office